

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Cowan, Gilliam, Kotek, Maurer, Olson, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Gelser
Prepared By:	Andy Smith, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/23, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for persons with who are deaf or hard of hearing. Specifies membership and duties of commission. Provides that Oregon Advocacy Commission Office provide administrative services for commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Phone tax funding for deaf and hard of hearing programs
- Commission for the Blind
- Hearing technology access
- Access to signing opportunities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes language about disability status of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was created to support the work of the Commissions on Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Women's affairs which serve as the liaisons between the minority communities and government entities. The OACO is responsible for administrative support to the various commissions as they strive for implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for minorities in Oregon.

The OACO assists the commissions in monitoring existing programs and legislation designed to meet the needs of minority populations and helps in identifying and researching problem areas and issues affecting minority communities. OACO works with the commissions to continually assess the issues and needs confronting minorities across Oregon and identify programs, projects and activities which the OACO will undertake regarding those issues.

House Bill 2881-A would create a Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which would be administered by OACO.